

Nausett or Eastham.

8" x 12.5"

A declaration of the rights and interest that sundry persons, sometimes members of the church at Plymouth to a tract of land or township at "Nausett now Eastham" Mr. Thomas Prence, Mr. John Doane, Nicholas Snow, Josiah Cooke, Richard Higgins, John Smalley, Edward Bangs

Anno dom. 1643 divers of the members of the church at Plymouth being in some straight in respect of the outward accomodation moved the church to a removal or to give liberty to such as was in straight so to do. The church being ~~was~~ taking it in serious consideration, being loth that they should scatter, did conclude if a place should be found they would go together. Sundry places were proposed and this Nausett forementioned which was apprehended by Mr. Wm Bradford, Gov. to be most commodious for them. Thus being agreed upon some were sent out upon discovery, who upon the first view did apprehend the place to be some larger than afterwards it proved to be. Like also the Church knowing that the Purchasers, or Oldcomers has a grant of <sup>some</sup> land lying that way about Satucket, thought it meet that they should be spoken to that they may take away any occasion of offence to those who were found cavilling to such a thing; the way being now clear it was concluded by the Church to make a second discovery also a purchase from the natives. This second in June, 1644. Mr. Wm Bradford, Mr. Thomas Prence and divers others of the forementioned persons and many others of the church went upon a second discovery, and then upon a better view found the place out to be capable for to accomodate the whole Church, yet it was thought meet to purchase the place which was accordingly done; [Here follows the account of land & who bought of]

"Returning home the Church having noticed the place could not answer their ends, it being looked upon but capable to contain but twenty "five families it was then concluded that such as would go thither might, which did appear to be the major part at present which did not long continue, but such were resolve to go which was Mr. Thomas Prence & the rest before mentioned, who



at last had the right and interest of the place paying the purchase money which did first belong to the whole church; and so the persons before mentioned Mr Thomas Prence & the rest began the plantation called Nausett alias Eastham and have from time to time received such to them as they saw meet; and allowed such ~~to them~~ accommodations as the place would afford. Being thus sat down having paid our purchase for such lands as were before specified we then came to composition with the Indians which did belong to George the sachem; he being now dead about the neck of land lying at the harbors mouth. Finding it to be inconvenient for us to ~~before~~ the Indians at both ends of our town we allowed them a piece of land at ~~Resquaquasset~~ and paid them ~~for~~ a valuable sum for to fence it themselves & by mutual agreement were freed from that engagement Likewise the aforesaid persons did purchase the Island called Pickett Island which was reserved by the sachem for the Indians to plant upon" [Here follows the Billingsgate land]

"So we laid claim to ~~all~~ <sup>the</sup> lands within this township as our proper right excepting such lands as is before mentioned which is reserved by the Indians for them to plant upon, and also such lands as we the aforesaid persons, Mr. Thomas Prence, John Doane, Nicholas Snow Edward Banges Josiah Locke and the rest here give out with upland and meadow with proportionable to such inhabitants as we have received among us. And for the verity & truth hereof we have set to our hands.

John Doane, Nicholas Snow Josiah Locke  
Edward Banges and have admitted  
as full purchasers with us having paid their purchase, Mr John Freeman, Lieut. Rogers Daniel Keale Job Coole Robert Wixon & do claim our right and privilege for the disposing of lands from time to time to us, our heirs and assigns forever within this town ship."  
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